

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 SSM-03 MCT-01 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00
AID-05 NEAE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 DHA-02 /109 W
-----100117 191355Z /42

P R 191210Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4926
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 275
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 4069

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION - AUG 12-18

REF: BEIRUT 3961 (DTG 130530Z AUG 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK, HEAVY SHELLING CONTINUED BETWEEN
PALESTINIANS AND CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON. FOREIGN
MINISTER BOUTROS SAID NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED FOR BEGINNING
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IMPLEMENTATION OF CHTAURA AGREEMENT IN SOUTH. LEBANESE AND
PALESTINIANS REACTED STRONGLY TO ISRAELI EXTENSION OF "EQUAL
RIGHTS" TO WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP. ARAFAT MET WITH SOVIET
AMBASSADOR. PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PALESTINIANS SUGGESTED
POSSIBLE DISAGREEMENT WITHIN PLO OVER WHETHER TO COUNT
ON U.S. TO HELP ACHIEVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE. PALESTINIANS
HELD RALLY TO MARK FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF FALL OF TAL AL-ZAATAR.

DAMASCUS PAPER PUBLISHED "WORK PAPER" FOR LEBANESE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. KUWAIT FUND REPORTEDLY AGREED TO MAKE \$28 MILLION LOAN FOR BEIRUT'S AIRPORT. DUTCH DELEGATION CAME TO LEBANON TO DISCUSS PROJECT TO BUILD 100-BED HOSPITAL IN TRIPOLI. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAVY SHELLING CONTINUES IN SOUTH.

HEAVY SHELLING CONTINUED THIS WEEK BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS ACROSS WIDE FRONT IN SOUTH LEBANON AS EACH SIDE ACCUSED OTHER OF VIOLATING CEASE-FIRE. THERE WERE NUMEROUS REPORT, SOME CONFIRMED, THAT ISRAELIS PROVIDED DIRECT ARTILLERY SUPPORT TO CHRISTIAN FORCES.

3. CHTAURA AGREEMENT IN SOUTH.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON AUGUST 16, FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS SAID THAT DESPITE PRESS SPECULATION "NO DATE HAS YET BEEN FIXED" FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CHTAURA AGREEMENT'S PHASE THREE, WHICH APPLIES TO SOUTH. IN THIS REGARD, ARMY CHIEF VICTOR KHOURY REMARKED PRIVATELY THAT GOL WOULD NOT SEND LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH BEFORE COMPLIANCE WITH CEASE-FIRE AND PALESTINIAN WITHDRAWAL (SEE BEIRUT 4029 AND IR-6-857-0078-88).

4. REACTION TO EXTENSION OF "EQUAL RIGHTS" ON WEST BANK.
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LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS HAVE REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST TEL AVIV'S DECISION TO EXTEND EQUAL RIGHTS TO WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP. PHALANGIST LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL CONDEMNED DECISION AS "ATTEMPT TO ISRAELIZE WEST BANK AND GAZA AND ELIMINATE THEM AS POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND", AND HE WARNED AGAINST OFFERING SOUTH LEBANON TO THE PALESTINIANS AS SUBSTITUTE. COLUMNIST MICHAEL ABU JAUD, WRITING IN AN NAHAR AUGUST 17, SAID HE EXPECTED U.S. TO YIELD TO ISRAELI FAIT-ACCOMPLI, POLITICAL EDITOR OF PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY WROTE AUGUST 15 THAT ISRAELI DECISION REPRESENTED "STEP BY STEP ANNEXATION." HE ADDED THAT IT PROVED THAT "ALL MOVES TOWARDS PEACE IN REGION," INCLUDING "TALK ABOUT" AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION 242, WERE IN VAIN. (SEE BEIRUT 4024).

5. ARAFAT MEETS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR.

ARAFAT HAS MET WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT FOUR TIMES OVER LAST TEN DAYS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. IN ADDITION, ARAFAT PLANS TO VISIT SOVIET UNION IN NEAR FUTURE, ACCORDING TO FALESTINE AL-THAWRA, PLO'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER.

ARAFAT'S LAST TRIP TO MOSCOW WAS IN APRIL, WHEN HE MET WITH
SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV FOR FIRST TIME.

6. POSSIBLE DISAGREEMENT AMONG PALESTINIANS.

TWO RECENT STATEMENTS BY PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT SUGGEST
DISAGREEMENT WITHIN PLO OVER WHETHER TO COUNT ON UNITED
STATES TO HELP ACHIEVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE. HEAD OF PLO'S
FOREIGN INFORMATION BUREAU PUBLISHED AUGUST 14 ARTICLE
WHICH HAD PERHAPS KINDEST WORDS EVER UTTERED BY PLO
OFFICIAL FOR AMERICAN LEADERS. BUT HEAD OF PLO'S
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT GAVE INTERVIEW CARRIED IN LOCAL
MAGAZINE AUGUST 15 WHICH STRONGLY ATTACKED AMERICAN
INTENTIONS (SEE BEIRUT 3995).
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7. FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF FALL OF TAL AL-ZAATAR.

ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, SEVERAL THOUSAND PALESTINIANS MARCHED THROUGH DAMOUR AUGUST 12 TO COMMEMORATE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF FALL OF TAL AL-ZAATAR. ON PREVIOUS DAY, YASSER ARAFAT DELIVERED MILITANT ADDRESS, SAYING THAT MARTYRS OF TAL AL-ZAATAR SHOWED "WITH THEIR BLOOD THAT THERE ARE MEN WHO WILL NEVER LAY DOWN THEIR RIFLES", AND WHO WILL LIBERATE PALESTINE "WHETHER BEGIN OR
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VANCE WISH IT OR NOT." NLP SECRETARY-GENERAL DORY CHAMOUN HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 12 AND DEFENDED TAKING OF CAMP AS BOTH NECESSARY AND JUSTIFIED (SEE BEIRUT 3993).

8. WORK PAPER ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

FOLLOWING VISIT OF KFUR FRONT LEADERS CAMILLE CHAMOUN, SULEIMAN FRANJIEH AND PIERRE GEMAYEL TO DAMASCUS ON AUGUST 12, BEIRUT PRESS ON AUGUST 14 QUOTED DAMASCUS DAILY AL-THAWRA AS SAYING THAT A "WORK PAPER" FOR LEBANESE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC SHORTLY AND WOULD AFFIRM IN PART THAT: (A) LEBANESE PARTIES THEMSELVES SHOULD DRAW UP PLAN FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION; (B) SYRIA HAD PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE "IN THIS DELICATE STATE THROUGH WHICH LEBANON IS PASSING;" (C) BROAD NATIONAL FRONT SHOULD BE FORMED "AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME;" (D) SOUTH LEBANON SHOULD BE MADE PART OF "SECURITY PLAN" CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED IN REST OF LEBANON; AND (E) EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO SPEED UP REBUILDING OF LEBANESE ARMY. FROM BEIRUT PERSPECTIVE, INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT WORK PAPER OUTLINES STANDARD SYRIAN POSITIONS, WHICH DAMASCUS MAY WISH TO REAFFIRM AT THIS TIME TO BOLSTER SPIRITS OF KAMAL SHATILA AND IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR HIS MORIBUND BROAD NATIONAL FRONT.

9. KUWAIT FUND LOAN FOR AIRPORT.

ACCORDING TO KUWAITI PRESS REPORTS, KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GOL'S COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON EIGHT MILLION KUWAITI DINAR LOAN (28 MILLION) FOR REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SEE KUWAIT 4596).

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10. OTHER MATTERS.

OFFICIAL DUTCH DELEGATION HAS COME TO LEBANON TO DISCUSS
DUTCH GOVERNMENT PROJECT TO BUILD 100-BED HOSPITAL
IN TRIPOLI. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION ZOUHAIR
BEYDOUN TOLD PRESS AGUSUT 16 THAT 24 AIRLINES HAVE NOW
RESUMED SERVICE AT BEIRUT AIRPORT, WHERE MOVEMENT OF
PLANES IN JULY WAS 59 PERCENT OF LEVEL IN JULY 1974. ON
AUGUST 14, SHIP ARRIVED IN BEIRUT CARRYING 27,000 METRIC
TONS OF THE 50,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT SCHEDULED FOR
DELIVERY UNDER THIS YEAR'S PL-480, TITLE I, PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

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